

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-_____

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION,
H.R. 380, THE PROPERTY TAX ENDOWMENT ACT OF 2003**

On Tuesday, May 6, 2003, on motion of Supervisor _____, duly seconded by Supervisor _____, and carried, the following resolution is adopted:

WHEREAS, Congressman George Radanovich, joined by co-sponsors, has introduced H.R. 380, the Property Tax Endowment Act, which would assure no additional property tax loss to counties when Federal agencies acquire private lands and businesses within the jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, San Bernardino County has experienced a significant number of federal acquisitions in support of wilderness, parks, and threatened and endangered species management programs during the past five years, and

WHEREAS, San Bernardino County has specifically lost over 446,000 acres of lands formerly owned by Catellus Corp., which have been acquired by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and has lost one of the county's largest cattle ranching operations lying in the Mojave National Preserve, and

WHEREAS, despite the loss of lands and businesses within the county, the county received no additional funding under the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, other than the increases in FY 2001 and 2002 based on increased appropriations. The county received no added funds based on change in entitlement acreage, since the county already exceeds the population cap and its federal acreage exceeds the maximum amount considered in the PILT formula calculation, and

WHEREAS, land use plans finalized in December 2002, and new plans in preparation by the federal agencies are expected to contain proposals for additional Federal acquisitions within the county, and

WHEREAS, current and proposed mitigation for threatened and endangered species management require "donation" of private lands to Federal agencies for legal and authorized developments involving federal lands, further eroding the county's tax base,

WHEREAS, services such as emergency medical transportation, search and rescue, law enforcement, and maintenance of flood control activity are dependent upon property taxes to maintain such services, and losses of tax base from federal acquisition may result in curtailment of such services to citizens,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT

That the County of San Bernardino endorses H.R. 380 and urges members of the California Congressional delegation to join the bill as co-sponsors and to seek its passage in the 108th Congress.

That the County of San Bernardino expresses its appreciation to Congressman Radanovich for taking the lead, and to Congressman Jerry Lewis for his co-sponsorship, to provide for

permanent property tax relief in the face of federal land acquisitions that have not become high-profile national cases, and for including a retroactive provision that will offset the significant losses that have already occurred from federal acquisitions within the county.

That the County of San Bernardino transmit copies of this resolution to appropriate members of the United States Senate, including Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, seeking introduction of a companion bill in the Senate.

That the County of San Bernardino expresses its desire for an early hearing on H.R. 380 to the Chairman of the House Resources Committee, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands.

That the County of San Bernardino transmit copies of this resolution to multi-county and appropriate regional and national organizations seeking their support and endorsement of H.R. 380 and its principles.

Further, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, or his designate, shall be authorized to provide testimony in support of H.R. 380 to Congressional committees or subcommittees if hearings are held and testimony from the County is requested.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors:
NOES: Supervisors:
ABSENT: Supervisors:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO)

I, **J. RENÉE BASTIAN**, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, California, hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the record of the action as the same appears in the Official Minutes of said Board at its meeting of May 6, 2003.

J. RENÉE BASTIAN
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of San Bernardino County

By _____
Deputy